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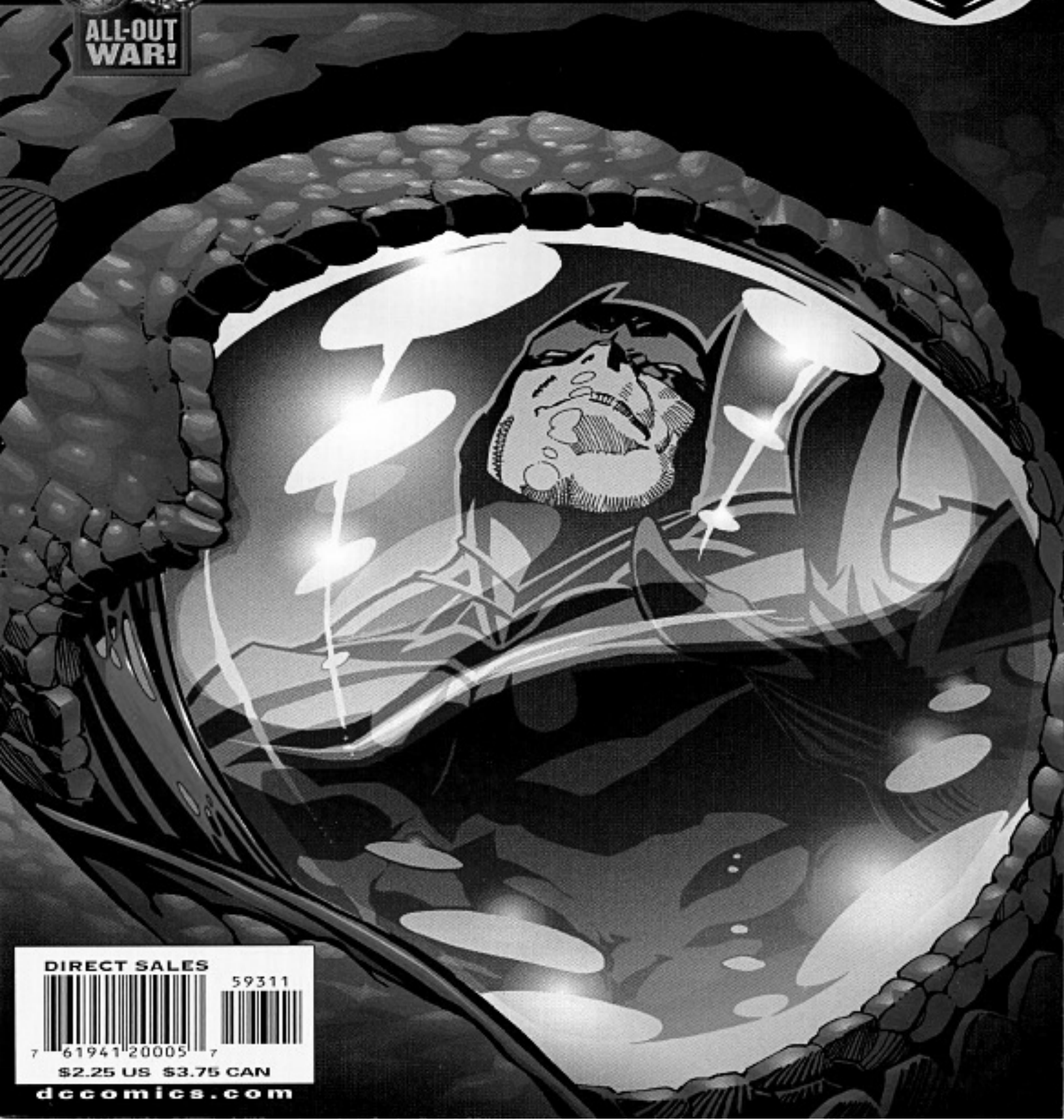
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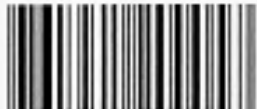


SANCTUARY: PART ONE
BRUBAKER • MCDANIEL • STORY



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SANCTUARY

Part one of two



THREE WEEKS AND STILL
NO SIGN OF ZEISS.

BUT I KNOW HE HASN'T
LEFT GOTHAM--TOO MUCH
HAS GONE WRONG FOR HIM.

I'M SURE HE'S HIDING OUT
SOMEWHERE AND PLOTTING HIS
REVENGE...WAITING IN THE
SHADOWS FOR THE PERFECT
MOMENT TO REDEEM HIMSELF
IN THE EYES OF HIS EMPLOYERS.

ED BRUBAKER writer/**SCOTT McDANIEL** penciller/**KARL STORY** inker
ROBERTA TEWES colorist/**WILDSTORM FX** separations/**JOHN COSTANZA** letterer
MICHAEL WRIGHT associate editor/**BOB SCHRECK** editor
BATMAN created by **BOB KANE**

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AND EVENTUALLY,
SOMEONE HAS TO
HAVE A LEAD ON HIM.



LATE
APPOINTMENT
TONIGHT,
MARTIN?

AAAH!



WHAT--WHAT
DO YOU WANT?
I'M CLEAN
NOW...

SURE YOU ARE,
MARTIN... BUT ALL THOSE
YEARS AS AN ICE-BREAKER
FOR THE MOB MAKES ME
DOUBT YOUR CREDIBILITY
A BIT.

ICE-BREAKER... SO I
CUT SOME DIAMONDS DOWN A
FEW TIMES... IT WASN'T LIKE
I WAS A CAREER FELON.
I'M JUST A
JEWELER...

NOT JUST, YOU'RE A MASTER JEWELER,
AND A SKILLED LENS-GRINDER... TWO THINGS
SOMEONE I'M LOOKING FOR IS HIGHLY
INTERESTED IN RIGHT NOW.



SO, I'LL
ASK
AGAIN...



...WHAT ARE YOU
DOING COMING BY
YOUR OFFICE AT
MIDNIGHT?

LET
ME
GO!



ANSWER
THE
QUESTION

I WASN'T
DOING
ANYTHING!



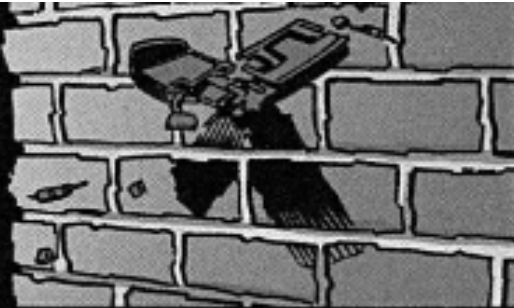
RRRING RRING



YOU WANT
TO GET
THAT?

RRINGG





WE'VE GOTTA
MOVE! NOW!

WHAT?
WHAT
IS IT?



WHAT DO YOU
THINK IT IS? JUST
GET YOUR STUFF
TOGETHER AND
MOVE, DAMN
IT!



DO YOU
REALIZE THE
TROUBLE
YOU'VE GOTTEN
ME INTO?! DO
YOU?!



I DON'T CHOOSE
YOUR CLIENTS, MARTIN...
YOU REAP WHAT
YOU SOW.

NO LUCK TURNING UP THE PENGUIN ANYWHERE LAST NIGHT.

BUT HE WON'T BE HARD TO FIND FOR LONG. AND UNTIL THEN, MAYBE I CAN WORK A DIFFERENT ANGLE...

OH, BRUCE, HOW THOUGHTFUL!

IT'S NOTHING, REALLY, I JUST FEEL BADLY THAT I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO COME BY EARLIER.

HOW'S HE DOING?

WHY DON'T YOU ANSWER BRUCE YOURSELF, DADDY?

I'M SORRY, HE'S REALLY BEEN DOING *MUCH BETTER* WITH HIS TALKING, BUT HE'S STILL SO *ANGRY*...

IT'S OKAY, MALLORY, I UNDERSTAND...

WELL, I'M GLAD, BUT HE REALLY NEEDS TO GET ON TOP OF HIS SPEECH THERAPY... HE MAY BE *PARALYZED*, BUT HIS MIND IS STILL THERE AND HE NEEDS TO *REMEMBER* THAT.

I'M SURE HE WON'T FORGET IT WITH YOU AROUND.

WE'LL SEE...

HAS THERE BEEN ANY WORD FROM THE POLICE ABOUT THE PERSON WHO SHOT HIM? *

JUST THAT HE GOES BY THE NAME **DEADSHOT**, BUT THEY HAVE **NO LEADS** ON HIS WHEREABOUTS OR WHO HIRED HIM...

BUT SOME OF DADDY'S ASSOCIATES ARE LOOKING INTO THAT, TOO. THEY MAY HAVE MORE LUCK THAN THE POLICE.

IS THAT WHERE YOUR FATHER'S **BODYGUARD** IS--WHAT WAS HIS NAME--**ZEISS**? I NOTICED HE WASN'T AROUND...

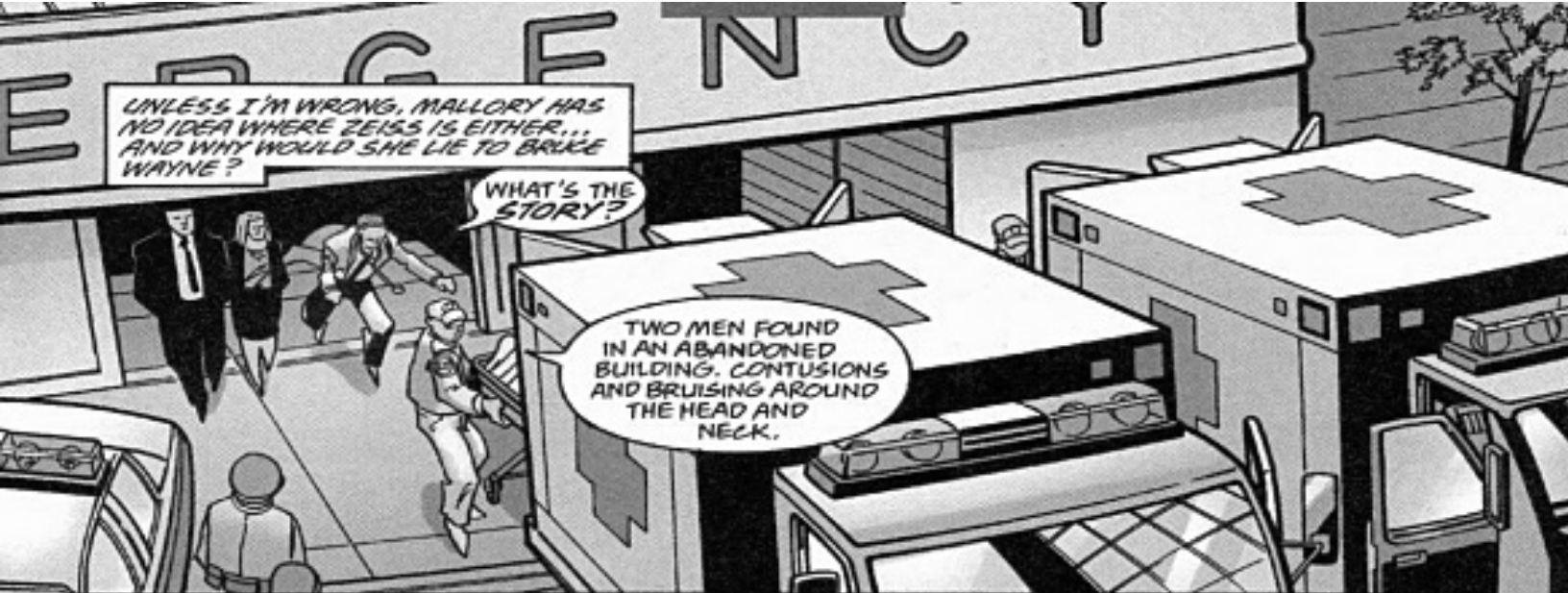
* See last issue--
SCHRECK

I DON'T KNOW...MR. ZEISS PUTS A LOT OF PRIDE IN HIS WORK, SO MAYBE...

BUT KNOWING HIM, I'M SURE HE'S **BLAMING BATMAN** FOR THIS WHOLE THING AS MUCH AS THE ASSASSIN...

ANYWAY, I SHOULD GET BACK TO DADDY, THANKS FOR STOPPING BY, THOUGH... MAYBE WHEN THINGS GET BETTER WE CAN GO OUT FOR DINNER?

UH, YEAH... I'LL KEEP IN TOUCH.



UNLESS I'M WRONG, MALLORY HAS NO IDEA WHERE ZEISS IS EITHER... AND WHY WOULD SHE LIE TO BRUCE WAYNE?

WHAT'S THE STORY?

TWO MEN FOUND IN AN ABANDONED BUILDING. CONTUSIONS AND BRUISING AROUND THE HEAD AND NECK.



VITALS?

WEAK... IT'S LIKE THEY'RE BOTH IN A COMA OR SOMETHING...



WHAT'S THAT ON THE BACK OF HIS JACKET?

F.B.I.... THEY BOTH ARE.



OH... GREAT. THAT'S JUST GREAT...





WHAT?

NOT SURE...
THOUGHT I HEARD
SOMETHIN' IN
THERE...

SHOULD
WE
CHECK
IT
OUT?



NO WAY, D'YOU SEE THOSE
GUYS THEY DRAGGED OUTTA
HERE THIS AFTERNOON? I
DON'T WANNA END UP
IN NO COMA...

... BESIDES,
THIS AIN'T OUR
CRIME SCENE
ANYMORE. WE'RE
JUST STANDING
WATCH FOR THE
FEEBS. LET
THEM CHECK
IT OUT.

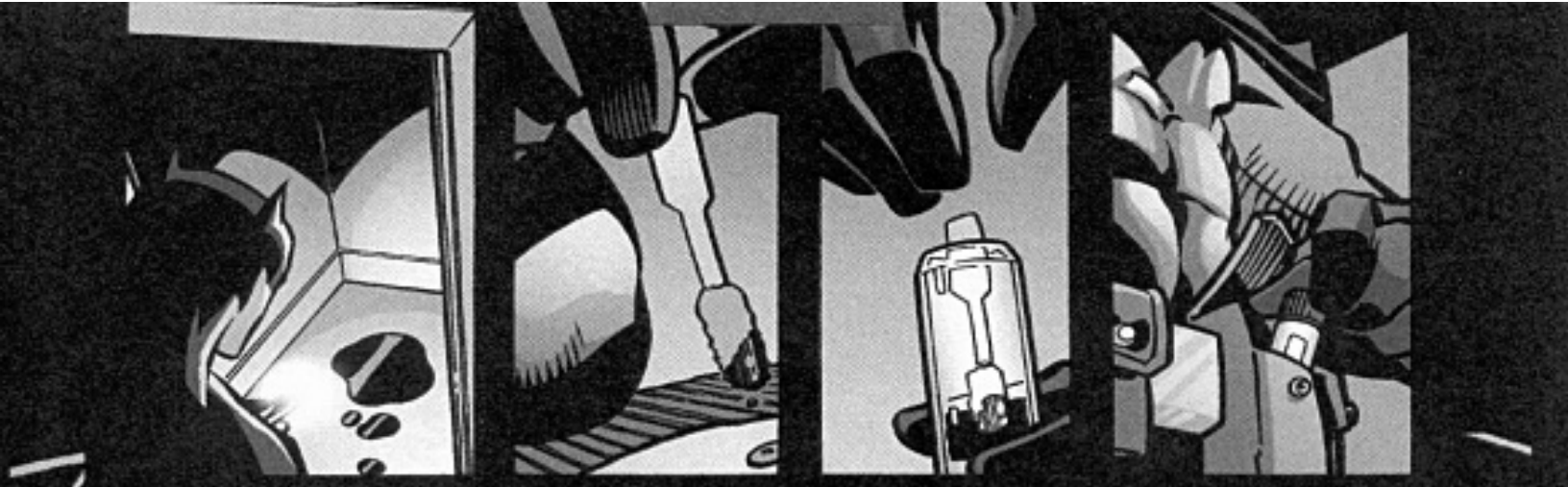
I HEARD
THAT.



SECOND CRIME SCENE IN AS
MANY MONTHS THAT THE F.B.I.
HAS CLAIMED JURISDICTION
ON IN GOTHAM...

... AND THAT'S
JUST A LITTLE
TOO MUCH OF
A COINCIDENCE.





UNLESS I MISS
MY GUESS, THAT
FLUID WILL TURN
OUT TO BE NOT
FROM THIS
EARTH.

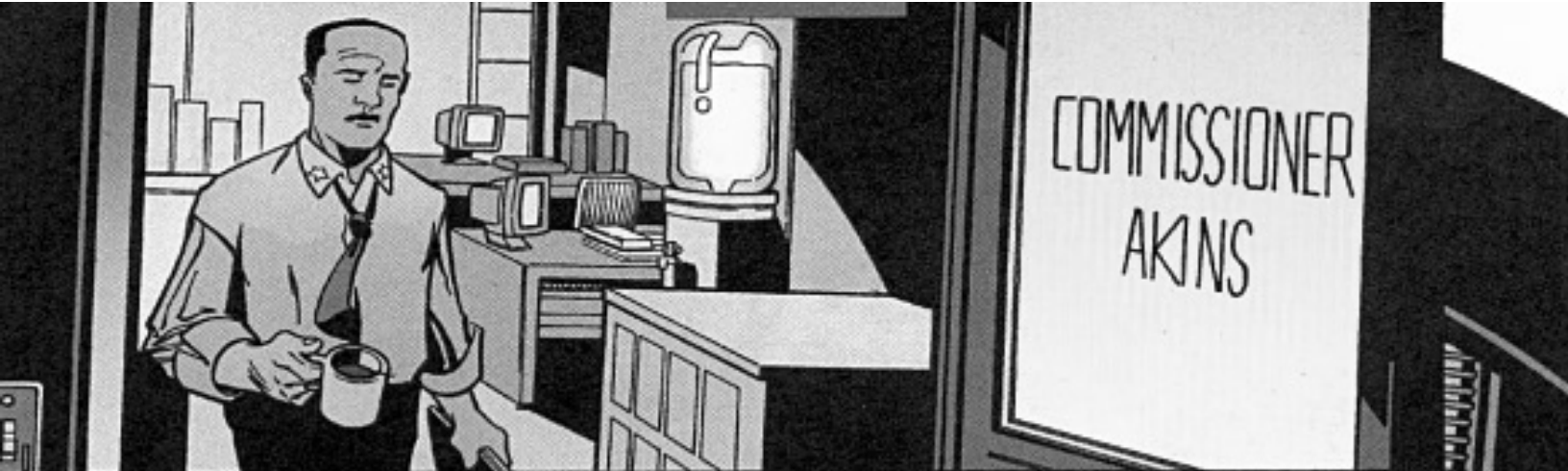


...AND IT SURE LOOKS
LIKE SOMETHING HIT
THIS PLACE HARD
RECENTLY.



SOMETHING A LOT OF PEOPLE
WENT TO A LOT OF EFFORT TO
COVER UP.





AAAH!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? I THOUGHT I CONTACTED YOU...

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW THAT THOSE TWO F.B.I. AGENTS IN THE INTENSIVE CARE WARD WERE INVOLVED IN *ANOTHER* GOVERNMENT COVER-UP.

I KNOW, THEY AREN'T ACTUALLY F.B.I. EITHER.... THEY'RE D.E.O.

SO, WHAT IN THE HELL IS GOING ON IN MY CITY?

PROBABLY SOME FALLOUT FROM WHAT REALLY HAPPENED IN KANSAS...

THERE'S A LOT GOING ON RIGHT NOW THAT THE GOVERNMENT DOESN'T WANT THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO KNOW ABOUT.



BUT AS FAR AS GOTHAM
IS CONCERNED, WE'VE HAD
TWO CRASHED SPACE-CRAFT
THAT I KNOW ABOUT IN A
LITTLE OVER A MONTH.

AND IT
LOOKS
LIKE THIS
LAST ONE
LEFT A LIVE ALIEN
WANDERING OUR
STREETS AS WELL...

... ONE THAT
APPEARS TO BE
BOTH AFRAID
AND
DANGEROUS.

ONE
NS

SO, I THOUGHT
YOU MIGHT WANT TO
PUT OUT AN A.R.B.
OR SOMETHING.

WHAT,
AREN'T YOU
GONNA TRY AND
CLAIM THIS ONE
FOR YOURSELF?



I'M IN
THE MIDDLE
OF A LOT
OF OTHER
THINGS RIGHT
NOW.

A LOT OF
OTHER THINGS...
YEAH, I'LL
BET.





AND
SOME
PEOPLE STILL
DOUBT ME...
FANH!



A black and white comic book page featuring Batman and a man in a suit. Batman is shown in a close-up, looking serious. The man in the suit is shown in a close-up, looking angry. The man in the suit is holding a small object in his hand. The background is dark and indistinct.

SO DO
DENTISTS.

WHERE
IS HE?
WHERE'S
ZEISS?

Y'KNOW, IF I ~~KNEW~~ THE
ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION,
I'D BE ~~MORE~~ THAN
HAPPY TO TELL YOU...

THE GUY ISN'T
~~EXACTLY~~ AT THE
TOP OF MY
CHRISTMAS CARD
LIST RIGHT NOW.

AND YOU THINK THAT
SOMEHOW ~~EXCUSES~~
YOU FROM TRYING TO
HELP HIM IN THE
FIRST PLACE?

OR FROM
HELPING
BEFORE?

OH, C'MON... I'VE
WANTED ~~NOTHING~~ TO
DO WITH THIS PSYCHO
FROM THE ~~START~~. I
DO ~~ONE FAVOR~~ FOR
SOMEONE AND
SUDDENLY I'M
TAKING ALL THE
HEAT FOR
SOMEONE ELSE'S
DIRTY WORK.

IT'S JUST
NOT FAIR!

SO IT WAS
~~MOXON~~ YOU
WERE REALLY
WORKING
FOR?

I WASN'T
WORKING FOR
~~ANYONE~~! I JUST
INTRODUCED
A FEW PEOPLE...

... ANYTHING THAT
HAPPENED ~~AFTER~~
THAT HAS NOTHING
TO DO WITH ME.

OSWALD, I'M NOT A JUDGE, AND I DON'T CARE IF THERE'S EVIDENCE OF YOUR COMPLICITY OR NOT...

I KNOW WHAT YOU DID.

NOW, YOU SAY YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE ZEISS IS, AND I BELIEVE YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH...

...BUT MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING YOU CAN STILL DO FOR ME.

WHAT?

ZEISS TOLD ME THAT JEREMY SAMUELS' DEATH WAS INTENDED TO HURT BRUCE WAYNE BECAUSE OF SOMETHING HIS FATHER HAD DONE TO MOXON...

...SO, WHAT DID MOXON HAVE AGAINST THOMAS WAYNE?



OH, THAT... WELL, I DON'T KNOW THE WHOLE STORY, REALLY...

SOMETHING TO DO WITH SOME COSTUME PARTY WAY BACK WHEN, AND WAYNE RATTING TO THE COPS ABOUT SOMETHING.*

* SEE ISSUE # 591
--SCHRECK



IF YOU WANNA KNOW MORE ABOUT IT, YOU SHOULD ASK ANGELO BERETTI. HE WAS THERE FOR THE WHOLE THING, I THINK.



OF COURSE, HE'S NOT EXACTLY KNOWN FOR HIS LOOSE LIPS, THOUGH, SO--

HUH...WELL, GOOD RIDDANCE.





BAT SIGNALS

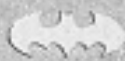
Dear dedicated crew for **BATMAN**,

I don't know where you found Brian Vaughan, but don't let him go! What I originally thought was going to be just a "good" fill-in story between Brubaker's great work has turned out to be spectacular! The artistic term "master stroke" usually means that in a great story there's always one really poignant touch the writer adds to make the story that much better. Here, I found many — which is a very rare thing indeed.

The whole flashback story of how Batman first adopted the Matches

promises he'll murder the man who shot and killed Matches. (Even if Vaughan's just going end up having Batman destroying the Scarface puppet, who is obviously the killer, it would still make a really strong point.) This story arc is fantastic! Keep up the great work!

TIM "TWO-FACE" LEIGHTON
DELTA, BC, CANADA



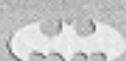
BATMAN #590 completed one of the best story arcs I have read in a long time. I was compelled by the depth of the story from beginning to end. Batman has always been my favorite character because although he has achieved a lot throughout his ten years as the Dark Knight, he still has his weaknesses, his moments where the human in him shines through. It makes me take a step back and realize that although he has worked hard to get where he is, he is still one of us. And just because Batman has one of the best supporting casts in comic-book history, that doesn't mean every writer can utilize them to their fullest potential. I applaud Vaughan and the rest of the Batman team for another magnificent issue.

JADE CARLYLE
VIA AOL



I've been out of the Batman loop for a while, and I noticed that much has happened in Gotham City. Actually, I didn't think that the stories would be that interesting since the conclusion of "No Mans Land." I was delighted to be proven wrong. "Close Before Striking" was very enjoyable. I'm looking forward to more topnotch stories from the crew. It's great to be back in Gotham.

MIKE BEAULE
MANCHESTER, NH



Dear Bat Signals,

I must say that I thoroughly enjoyed Brian Vaughan's three-issue story arc on Batman. He gave us a good crime story full of mystery and action. What more could you ask for? I would just like to tell him what a great job he did, and I wish him luck in the future.

Back to the story now! McDaniel's art was superb as usual. I must say that I wasn't too excited about it when he started on this title, but now I've gotten pretty well used to it! I have one question about this issue, though: Is this the end of Scarface? I hope not. He's always been a great villain. But since he was burned up, I guess the chances are pretty slim.

It was really neat to see a story centered on Matches Malone, a person I always thought of as another face for Bruce Wayne to hide behind. But I guess I was wrong about that!

Great job on this issue! I'll see you next month. I can't wait for the return of Deadshot!!!

BEN DINKEL
FORT WAYNE, IN

I wouldn't count Scarface out, Ben. But if he had to go, you know what they say: it's better to burn out than fade away.

That's it for this month's letters. See you in 30!

Your pal in the Batcave,
Michael Wright

Malone identity was definitely the best portion of the story. We see an inexperienced Batman, trying to build up some underworld connections — with very, very poor results. Even though Batman is a very intelligent, cautious individual, seeing him make mistakes makes him all the more human. The way in which he adopted the Matches Malone persona was very impressive and disturbing — it shows just how dedicated he is. Batman takes advantage of a man he presumes is dead (another rookie mistake) and immerses himself so much into his character that he almost becomes him.

I swear, if Bruce hadn't become a crime-fighter, he would have been a great method actor. (Eat your heart out, Matt Hagen.)

Even though Malone is a criminal through and through, it's really interesting to see this close bond Batman had formed with him over the years, even though they hadn't really been in contact. That's what makes it all the more disturbing when Batman

NEXT ISSUE:



The stunning conclusion of
"Sanctuary."

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KEYWORD: DC COMICS ON AOL

This month's cover by Scott McDaniel,
with colors by Patrick Martin.

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